

Work Session
May 6, 2003
4:00 p.m.

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioner met in a work session. A full board was present. Chairman Maness called the meeting to order and the following was heard:

Ag Center Rental Policies

County Manager Lee Matthews brought the board up to date on the Ag Center and improvements that have been made. He said we had stopped renting the Ag Center because of the renovations, however there were people we had already rented the Ag Center. Mr. Matthews said the Sheriff called and said on two different occasions they found alcohol. Maintenance Supervisor Bill Hamilton took pictures. One of the groups tried to kick in bathroom stalls. Mr. Matthews said Sheriff Jordan and Bill Hamilton are present to discuss this issue with the board. He said a copy of the Ag Center Rental Policy and two incident reports are attached in the agenda packets.

Sheriff Jordan said on April 19 and April 26, he was notified by the Troy Police Department and the State Highway Patrol that they were stopping vehicles leaving the Ag Center that were drinking and driving and some of their alcohol levels were in excess of .20. The Sheriff said we then shut the party down. However, it is not an easy thing to shut a party of 200+ people down.

Chairman Maness said we made this policy that states no alcohol. It has no teeth. The Sheriff can't arrest.

Sheriff Jordan explained that he doesn't have the authority to write a ticket for drinking on county property. He can make arrest for such conduct as assault on an officer. Commissioner Maness asked if we needed to add a clause to the policy to give the Sheriff the authority? Sheriff Jordan said it has to be an ordinance (i.e. the noise ordinance) to give him the authority.

Commissioner Corbett to the Sheriff: I got the impression that you do not want off duty officers working as security for these parties. Sheriff Jordan said that is correct.

Mr. Matthews said he recommended a fee increase and off duty officers working as security, but the Sheriff doesn't agree with that.

Sheriff Jordan said some groups we have no problem with, however, when we went to the last party I didn't recognize anyone, the man running the party was from out of town.

Mr. Matthews also recommended not renting the Ag Center to private individuals.

Commissioner Bostic suggested raising the deposit fee to discourage tearing up the center.

Commissioner Corbett asked if we limit the number of people that attend? Mr. Matthews said that would be according to the building code. Mr. Matthews asked Mr. Hamilton if he has heard from Phil Henley, building inspector? Mr. Hamilton said no. Mr. Matthews said that is probably a pretty high number. Mr. Corbett said I asked if we could limit the number.

Chairman Maness said I agree with the Sheriff I hate to stop renting it, but I also hate to see the place torn up.

Commissioner Corbett said I hate to see us not allow private citizens to use the building because they built the building.

Commissioner Morris asked Mr. Bostic if the Horsemen's Association raised the money for the building.

Commissioner Bostic said the county received a grant from the Division of Agriculture, however the citizens still pay for grants. He said he doesn't want the building torn up either. However he doesn't feel it is fair to deprive citizens from renting the building. He said everyone is not the same. We have to deal with all citizens, some drink, some don't. Commissioner Bostic said alcohol is a legal commodity. There is a thin line. I hate to see us legislate morality. I also understand what the Sheriff is saying, but if we had all Christians we wouldn't need a Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Morris said we need to give the Sheriff what he needs. Chairman Maness agrees.

Commissioner Knight asked how do you enforce the no smoking ordinance? Sheriff Jordan said I never have, but I have asked someone to please put their cigarette out and they have complied with no problem.

Commissioner Corbett said he thinks we ought to increase the deposit to \$750 and give the Sheriff the authority to write tickets.

Chairman Maness asked Mr. Hamilton what he does after a party? Do you inspect the building? Mr. Hamilton said he does inspect. He said a church group used the building one time and made a mess and on another occasion there was a shooting.

Commissioner Morris said what if we keep the \$250?

Mr. Hamilton said it takes a long time to clean that building up and we have to supply the cleaning materials.

Commissioner Morris said you do have a lot that do clean up properly, correct? Mr. Hamilton said yes.

Commissioner Corbett said it is \$100 to rent the Senior Center.

Commissioner Knight suggested eliminated party of #4 of the rental policy (take out private individuals), go up to \$500 for the deposit fee, keep rental fee as is, and keep communication with those who rent and if they tore the place up last time, don't let them have it again.

Commissioner Corbett suggested that if alcohol is found on the premises that the deposit fee be kept.

Commissioner Bostic said what if someone rented the building with good intentions and someone pulled up with a six pack, then what? Commissioner Corbett said keep the deposit fee.

Chairman Maness said I have been to the Ag Center to meetings with the Cattlemen's Association and have been embarrassed because of the shape of the building. He said Mr. Hamilton has worked hard to get the building repaired and we need to protect it. He said he feels we need to drop #4, up the deposit fee to \$750, and keep it if alcohol is found.

Commissioner Corbett said he would like to see the county fair down there again.

Chairman Maness asked the board what their opinions are on dropping #4 (private individuals), up the deposit fee to \$750, and keep it if alcohol is found?

Commissioner Morris said she agrees if we approve the ordinance for the Sheriff.

Sheriff Jordan said we may not need the ordinance with these changes.

Commissioner Knight was concerned about the deposit fee being \$750 because some churches and non-profit organizations may not be able to come up with the deposit.

Commissioner Corbett said they would get the deposit back.

Mr. Hamilton said some renters take days to clean up. Commissioner Corbett said the policy reads one day.

Chairman Maness said we need to keep the money, we need to be strict.

The board agreed to carry this forward to the regular session.

Sheriff Car to Montgomery Community College

Sheriff Jordan also discussed transferring a car from the Sheriff's Department to Montgomery Community College to use for their Basic Law Enforcement Training. The Sheriff said Phil Kissell called and asked if he had a patrol car he was going to pull from the fleet and requested a car to be transferred. Sheriff Jordan said he does have a 1994 Chevrolet with 185,000 miles that he is going to take off line. He said MCC has the ability to have the car repaired there at the auto shop. He said we also have a lot of officers that are trained there. We have done this before. Sheriff Jordan asked Commissioner Bostic if he remembers that. Mr. Bostic said yes.

Mr. Matthews said instead of declaring the vehicle surplus, the board will only have to vote to transfer it.

After discussion of the upcoming surplus auction the board agreed to carry this forward to the regular session for a vote.

Recreation Funds

Mr. Matthews talked about the \$75,000 money the landfill gives the county that is used for recreation. He said the money is usually distributed in May and an updated list is in the agenda packets.

The board discussed and was concerned about the increases in some of the requests.

Commissioner Knight asked why there are so many different leagues. Commissioner Bostic explained that there are leagues that serve different areas of the county as well as different age groups.

The board discussed funding the leagues at the same level as last year with accounting.

The board agreed to carry this forward to the regular session.

Discussion of Carolina Access III & Related Programs

Health Director Kathleen Devore Jones was present to make a presentation to the board concerning the Health Check Program and the Carolina Access III program. She said the Health Check Program would be operated through the Health Department. The program would provide state funds to increase medical access to persons of low and moderate income. It will not cost any county money in the Health Department. She said the Health Department received this funding last year and the state froze the program. Mrs. Jones said she had already advertised the position and had hired Irma Robledo who was working at the Health Department as a clerk. She said she received notification from the state that the funds were available.

Mrs. Jones also mentioned that she and DSS Director Jim Sanders are on a board discussing the Carolina Access III, which is the same essential program, but the program would not be through the Health Department. She said I don't know where it will operate at, but if you decide not to vote for the Health Check Program we will get the program anyway, but it will be ran by the State.

However, DSS Director Jim Sanders said he has to put on his "business manager's" hat because he is concerned that providing greater access might increase the county share of Medicaid costs in the county's DSS budget.

The board decided for Mr. Matthews, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Jones to get together and bring an estimate of how much they think this will cost the county in Medicaid dollars.

County Manager's Report

The County Manager presented the following:

Audit Contract

Mr. Matthews said he had received two proposals for the auditing contract one from Dixon Odom and the other from Cherry, Bekaert, and Holland.

Mr. Matthews said after reviewing the proposals with Finance Officer Cathy Baxter, they recommend awarding the contract to Cherry, Bekaert and Holland. He said this firm was cheaper than Dixon Odom and estimated that the conversion to GASB 34 would cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000. He also said that Dixon Odom went up on their cost compared to the contract.

Chairman Maness asked if they had a lot of experience with county government? Mr. Matthews said they do the audits for Moore County, Harnett County, Cumberland County, and the City of Wilson.

The board decided to carry this issue forward to the regular session for a vote.

Budget Session

Mr. Matthews reminded the board of the upcoming budget work session on Thursday, May 8, at 8:30 a.m.

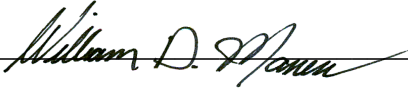
Chairman Maness reminded the board that the County Manager was graduating from Montgomery Leadership Class at MCC tonight at 6:30 p.m.

He also announced that Mr. Matthews graduated from the County Administration course.

Items Carried Forward to the Regular Session

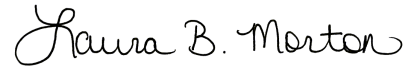
- Rental Policy for the Ag Center
- Transferring a Sheriff Car to the BLET at MCC
- Recreation Funds
- Audit Contract

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



William D. Maness, Chairman





Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board